

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/236,897

for conveying the chemical analysis element in the chemical analysis element supply section to the incubator.

Page 8, please delete the fourth full paragraph, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

In the case of the chemical analysis element for measuring the ionic activity, the ionic activity cannot be accurately measured if the spotting order of the sample liquid and the reference liquid is reversed. By detecting the position of the chemical analysis element in which the chemical analysis element is conveyed, it is possible to alarm the operator when the chemical analysis element is conveyed in a wrong position. The bar code may be used for identifying the term of examination and the like.

Page 11, please delete the fourth full paragraph, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Figure 11 is a fragmentary enlarged view as seen in the direction of arrow A in Figure 10,

Page 17, please delete the first full paragraph, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

As shown in Figure 5, the conveyor means 15 comprises a conveyor table 30 which has legs 30a at the front and rear ends thereof and is placed on the base 31, and the element supply section 12 is located at the middle of the conveyor table 30 and the spotting station 13 is located between the element supply section 12 and the incubator 14. The element supply section 12 is provided with an element guide 32 which holds the chemical analysis elements 11. Generally, a stack of a plurality of virgin chemical analysis elements 11 are held in the element guide 32. The

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element guide 32 is mounted on a recess of the conveyor table 30 so that the lowermost one of the chemical analysis elements 11 in the stack is positioned substantially flush with the upper surface of the conveyor table 30. An opening 32a which permits only a single chemical analysis element 11 to pass therethrough is formed in the front face of the element guide 32 at the lowermost portion thereof and an opening which permits insertion of a pusher (to be described later) is formed in the rear face of the element guide 32. Further, a slit 32b which communicates with a slit 30b formed in the conveyor table 30 as will be described later is formed in the bottom of the element guide 32. A cartridge in which a stack of a plurality of chemical analysis elements 11 is stored may be set in the element guide 32.

Page 24, please delete the second full paragraph, and replace it with the following new paragraph:

As shown in Figure 1, the analyzer 21 for measuring the ionic activity is positioned below the rotary member 50 of the incubator 14. The basic structure of the analyzer 21 is disclosed, for instance, in United States Patent 4,257,862, Japanese Patent Publication Nos. 58 (1983)-4981 and 6 (1994)-82113, and Japanese Unexamined Patent Publication Nos. 58 (1983)-156848 and 58 (1983)-211648. As shown in Figures 7 and 8, the analyzer 21 is provided with three pairs of through-holes 110, 111 and 112, and three pairs of potential measuring probes 113, 114 and 115 are supported for up-and-down movement in the through-holes 110, 111 and 112. Since the probes 113, 114 and 115 are the same in arrangement, only the probe 113 will be described, hereinbelow.

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Page 27, please delete the second full paragraph, and replace it with the following

new paragraph:

As shown in Figure 10, a flange member 83 is mounted from rotation by way of a bearing (not shown) on a support member 80 installed on the base 31. A pair of guide rods 84 are erected upward in parallel to each other from the upper surface of the flange member 83. The upper ends of the guide rods 84 are connected to a connecting member 85. A lead screw 86 extends between the connecting member 85 and the flange member 83 and is supported for rotation on the connecting member 85 and the flange member 83. The lower end portion of the lead screw 86 projects downward through the flange member 83 and a pulley 87 is fixed to the lower end of the lead screw 86. The spotting arm 88 is supported on the guide rods 84 to be movable up and down along the guide rods 84 by way of a pair of sleeves 89 which are fixed to the base end portion of the spotting arm 88 and slidably fitted on the guide rods 84. A through-hole is formed in the base end portion of the spotting arm 88 and a nut member 90 is fixedly fitted in the through-hole. The lead screw 86 extends through the base end portion of the spotting arm 88 and is in mesh with the nut member 90, whereby the spotting arm 88 is moved up and down in response to rotation of the lead screw 86.